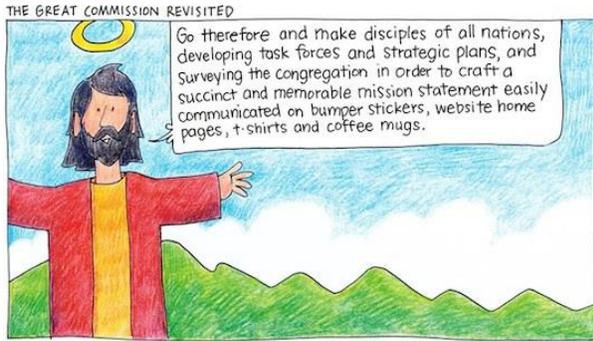


# What Are We Responsible For?

## Sermon Notes for June 11 2017 at Brentwood

### Ps 8 & Matthew 28:16-20



**Go therefore and make disciples  
of all nations,  
baptizing them  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey  
everything I have commanded you.  
(Matt 28:19-20a)**

### Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- This probably won't come as a surprise to most of you, but I've never done submissive obedience very well – that tendency has gotten me into serious trouble far more often than I want to remember – it has also led me to a deep appreciation for the reality of forgiveness, divine and human – and in recent times the Spirit has clarified some aspects of obedience that I was missing – brought together powerfully in my reading of Joshua Abraham Heschel's *Who Is Man?* - they relate directly to the command to obey in the Great Commission that we have been pondering all week and that we heard again this morning
- Here is one key insight that has taken deeper root in me this week and I hope it will provoke and nourish some of your insights to flourish more faithfully:
  - Obedience to God, seen most clearly in Jesus Christ and constantly redeeming us more fully in the work of the Holy Spirit, is taking responsibility for the living God created us to contribute to his mission – it's growing into our authenticity, into the God-given possibilities for partnering with Jesus Christ in co-creating justice, peace, and joy (SHALOM) that the Spirit is constantly presenting to us in our daily lives – pay special attention to those possibilities this week – note your appreciation for them in your Brentwood Thanks Jar – how is the Trinity nurturing you and admonishing you (traditional words in the Baptism service) to obey what Jesus has commanded and modeled for you – working in you and with you to form you into what God desires for you – so, obedience is what you get to do to become the you God made you to be – a unique and precious contributor to the Commonwealth of God

### At this point in our ponderings, then ...

In the final pages of the Heschel book (I just made notes on them in my devotions this morning), he poses the biblical alternative to the Enlightenment's view of humans, summarized in Rene Descartes' "I think. Therefore, I am." – the biblical view of humans is "I am commanded. Therefore, I am." – what you are commanded, as we read in our Call to Worship and our Psalm this morning, is to step into our God-gifted authenticity, the mission in which we find our full flourishing – we are endowed and crowned with 'glory and honour,' with energy and significance – we are responsible, then, to grow into this mission with attention and appreciation